

Nor must we belittle our imitative faculty by supposing that it merely imposes upon us a mechanical uniformity, or conducts us forward by leading strings which simply affect our external behaviour. By following the ideas or actions of another we gradually strengthen in ourselves the influence of the impulses which these express, and equip ourselves not only as it were with new machinery, but with new motive power. We form new habits of mind, or ideals, which affect us in spirit as well as in conduct. Thus the acceptance of Christianity leads not only to kindness of manners but to a more effective working of the kindly impulse. So also conditions of warfare subject us more strongly to feelings of cruelty; and democratic politics stimulate our impulse of deference to the crowd.

And although we may find that culture has been won by steps that cheapen our ideas of human dignity, we may well be proud of the actual results. Man has so far outstripped the brutes as to deserve a place for himself above the ranks of the animal kingdom. Between the chimpanzee and the lowest savages there is such a gulf as divides no other two classes of related animals. The one can only progress by the slow-moving wheels of evolutionary development: the other, able in some measure to change himself, has invented and adopted complications of behaviour which may have added to misery, which may have hastened

death but are the ~~primaeval~~^{of} foundations of modern culture. It is impossible to deny that there has been progress—that in manners and ideas we surpass the Greeks and the Romans as they surpassed the Egyptians and Babylonians.

It may be objected that so comforting a conclusion might hardly be reached were our survey made from a point in the Dark Ages of Europe.